1508/533.

THOUGHTS

OF

Preſent Concernment,

For the Relief of the

POOR

In a Scarcity of *CORN*.

SHEWING

Some experienced Methods new and old, whereby a poor Man is enabled, on poor Ground, to raiſe all the common Plants and Roots of a Kitchen-Garden, and thereby with ſmall Expence of either Time, Labour or Money, make a comfortable and ſpeedy Proviſion for his Family in either a ſcarce or plentiful Year.

Deſigned at firſt as Part of the Employment, and for raiſing Part of the Subſiſtence of Boys educated in Charter-Schools, eſpecially thoſe founded on poor ſhallow Grounds, and now publiſhed for the Benefit of the Poor in general, againſt the Scarcity of the coming Summer.

By a Member of the Incorporated Society.

DUBLIN:

Printed by S. POWELL, in *Crane-lane*,

MDCCXLVI.

To the Right Honourable and Honourable the Incorporated Society for promoting *Engliſh* Proteſtant Working Schools in *Ireland*.

The following Thoughts of preſent Concernment for the Relief of the Poor in a Scarcity of Corn, is moſt humbly preſented and ſubmitted by their

Dutiful,

Moſt Obedient,

and Moſt Humble

Servant

DAVID STEPHENS.

THOUGHTS
OF
Preſent Concernment for the Relief of the Poor in a Scarcity of Corn.

INSTEAD of the Corn which ſhould now be ſelling out of public Granaries for the Relief of the Poor, for preventing a ruinous Drain of Money once at leaſt every ſeven Years for foreign Corn, and many other political Benefits to a Nation which ſurely wants all the Helps, at leaſt, that it's own Inhabitants could and might give it, it is the Buſineſs of every one affected with the Condition of the Poor, in a Scarcity of Corn, to be contriving one Means or other for ſupporting them until new Corn comes in.

Though Charity had no Share in ſuch a Purpoſe, true Policy ſhould diſpoſe us to keep the Poor, who as yet are in ſome ſettled Habitations, at home, and there make ſome Proviſion for them, and not to ſee them ſo far diſtreſſed as either to come forth in Swarms of Beggars or Thieves (the ſore Burthen and Scourge of Society!) or remain languiſhing at home until Famine prepare the Way for ſome peſtilential Sickneſs which may begin with them, but God only knows with whom of higher Ranks it may end! if we have indeed that Fund, of either perſonal or national Merit, which our Security beſpeaks, there is the leſs Ground for any uneaſy Apprehenſions, and upon that Foot I leave it.

As my Part of the Taſk of providing Relief for the Poor in a Scarcity of Corn, I have undertaken the Management of the poor Man's Garden, which is his Chief, and if well managed, an happy Refuge in hard Times.

To proceed then, every Man, who has ever been driven to his Shifts, knows, that with the Bleſſing of God there can be no violent Effects of Want, where there is a Proviſion of Cabbage of any Kind: On the contrary he knows that Cabbage ſerves not only as a Relief in part, but is capable of being the whole Subſiſtence of Families, of which there have been many Inſtances.

The whole Cabbage-kind has in all Ages and Countries been accounted a wholeſome and moderately nouriſhing Subſtance, and ſuch as by very little Skill and Expence is to be made a grateful Kind of Food. It is a great Part of the Food of the Poor in *Holland*, *Germany*, *Sweden*, *Denmark*, and many other Countries, and nearer home in *Scotland*, where a ſmall well-ſtocked Cale-yard (as they call it) is reckoned equivalent to a good large Field of Corn: and in general, where is there a more healthy and able-bodied People, than thoſe are, who moſtly feed on this and other Pro-

ductions of Gardens and Fields? which ſhould be well conſidered, and ſhould correct that ignorant and pernicious Fancy, which poſſeſſes all the poor Natives of this Kingdom, down to the very Beggars at the Door, who reckon nothing but Fleſh-meat and animal Diet in general, with Bread, to be Food of any Value or Significance; to which falſe and dangerous Fancy the Publick owes at leaſt half of it's Injuries by Beggars and Thieves, and every private Family Waſte and Loſs in the dieting of Servants and Labourers, who generally have no Opinion of any Plant or Root, but Potatoes only.

Of the Cabbage-kind there is a vaſt number of Species, to recount and deſcribe which would be a tedious Buſineſs, and after all, nothing to the preſent Purpoſe: I ſhall here regard only two Kinds of it. 1. Cabbage, under which are compriſed all the Species of it that grow to a cloſe and hard Head, and 2. Cole, or Caul, or as it is moſt generally (I know not why) pronounced, Cale, all the Species of which conſiſt of Tufts of looſe Leaves, and however full-headed, never knit or grow to a hard Head as the Cabbage does. Cabbage cut for uſe before the Head knits, is alſo called Cale, and profeſſed Cooks, the unpuniſhable Poiſoners of great Folks, call them Greens.

Of what Uſe to Mankind, and peculiar Benefit to the Poor this Plant is, may be gathered from a few Circumſtances of it. From it's thriving (one kind or other of it) in all Climates hot and cold. From it's agreeing generally with the Conſtitutions of People all over the World. From the good and ſpeedy Returns it makes to the Planter; for though to come to its utmoſt Maturity, Cabbage requires as much time as ſeveral other Things in a Garden, yet from a few Weeks after planting, either by it's Spare-leaves, or Croppings, which it can well bear, it is every Day affording a ſeaſonable Meſs, while from other Plants and Roots more eſteemed, a ſingle Morſel is not to be got for preſent Relief. From it's bearing two diſtinct Crops in the Year, the ſecond (which is uſually called Sprouts) being perhaps leſs in Quantity, but in Quality, and conſidering the unfruitful Time of the Year when it comes in, more valuable than the firſt Crop. From it's Effects on the Scurvy, that Kind of it eſpecially incident to Seafaring People, which it corrects in a few Days, and in that Reſpect it's Uſefulneſs in all Northern Countries, where the Scurvy leſs or more abounds. From it's wonderful Effects on Cows, Sheep and Goats, either in Weakneſs or Sickneſs of any Kind, or when given to increaſe their Quantity of Milk either for the Pail, or ſuckling of their Young, which it does to a great Degree, and perceivable after two or three Meals made of it. From it's kindly Effects both upon human Bodies as a vegetable Diet, and on the Bodies of the chief Animals deſigned for being the animal Food of Mankind, and particularly from it's Speedineſs in furniſhing Relief to both in Neceſſity, can I conclude leſs, than that it is to the Poor, one of the moſt valuable Gifts of Providence,

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and in a growing Scarcity of Corn, is of all Plants and Roots the firſt that a poor Man ſhould lay out his Care, his Time, his Labour, and his Money upon?

Here it may be ſaid, that all this is very true, and that ſuch of the Poor as live on good deep Ground, may have great Benefit from this and other Garden Roots: But what Benefit can all this be to the greater Part of the Poor, whom Neceſſity has driven from good to poor, ſhallow, cold, bleak, and even half-barren Grounds, where Plants of leſs Size, Weight and Subſtance, cannot be got to thrive, or hardly keep alive?

This is the very Caſe that put me upon finding out ſome Method for making the Benefit of Garden Plants, and Roots, to extend to all Soils, good and bad, at leaſt, ſo far as not only to prove a competent Relief, but to anſwer all Expences: And ſo far from both Reaſon and Experiments actually made, I know it is poſſible and practicable, for any poor Man to raiſe thoſe Plants and Roots on any poor Land, wherein he can get Potatoes of any Kind to grow, which I believe, is going as far as any of the Poor of *Ireland* go, as to a Place of Abode, and where if they have Care and Induſtry in them, they may now lay in a good Proviſion, againſt the Trials of this coming Summer.

To ſet the whole Matter in a true Light, I will ſhew the Hardſhips which the Poor have to contend with, eſpecially thoſe of them living on poor ſhallow Grounds, and then offer and explain a Method for overcoming every Hardſhip and Diſcouragement.

We ſee that in the common Way of planting Cabbage, no Man has the leaſt Notion of ſetting one Plant before the whole Piece of Ground to be planted is firſt well digged and dunged all over, which with Reſpect to both Time, Labour, and Quantity of Dung taken up with it, is a great Undertaking for a poor Man on the beſt of Ground.

Where there is not Dung enough for the whole Piece, Holes are to be made in the Ground after digging, one for every Plant, a Quantity of Dung laid in every Hole, a Hole made in the Dung by a Setting-ſtick, the Plant ſet down in it, and the Mold before taken out in making the Hole, to be gathered up and ſettled about the Plant: The ſame Operations to be duly made in ſetting every Plant.

Now this, which is the only Method yet known to them for ſaving of Dung, and planting on poor ſhallow Soil, evidently requires a great deal of Time and Labour, and where a Plantation for a large Family is propoſed, is really more than moſt poor Men, who have any other as neceſſary Buſineſs to mind, or have nothing but the Price of their Day-labour, as faſt as it is earned, to live upon, are able to afford.

This, hard as it is, is not all; for though he has ever ſo well prepared his Ground by one or other of theſe Methods, yet if on one Hand the Dung happens to be ſucked down by the looſe Gra-

vel below, or if the Roots ſhoot through the Dung into the Gravel (one if not both of which Accidents all poor ſhallow Ground is liable to) then all Hopes of a Crop vaniſh, which to a poor Man is a great Loſs, beſides his Diſappointment in the time of need. All this the poor Man with a Sigh will allow to be true, which diſcourages ſome from even attempting, and others from planting in ſuch a Quantity as to be any great Benefit to a Family.

Now all thoſe Hardſhips and Diſcouragements are to be readily got over by a Method of Flat-planting, which in the firſt Place requires no previous digging of the Ground, nor any digging, but juſt what is neceſſary to get Covering for the Roots of the Plants laid flat on the Surface of the Ground, ſo that even on the green Sod a Man may immediately proceed with his planting. In the next place the Roots are by this Means ſo diſpoſed as to have the whole Benefit of what Dung and good Soil there is, and none at all of the ill Effects of Gravel or other hurtful Matter underneath. And laſtly, beſides his having greater Probability of Succeſs, a Man is enabled by this Method, with Eaſe to plant out as much in one, as in the common way, with hard Labour, in three Days; in every one of which Reſpects it is fitted to the Condition of poor Men and poor Ground.

To deſcribe fully the Manner of Flat-planting requires abundantly more Words, than any one ſtanding by and ſeeing the Thing done would imagine, but all Deſcriptions of the kind are intricate both to the Writer and Reader, and without Patience cannot be done by the one, nor underſtood by the other, which has occaſioned the Miſcarriage of many uſeful Diſcoveries and Improvements.

Firſt I will premiſe in general that it is not in the Power of the poor Man, nor even the ableſt Gardener, to keep his Ground and Plantation regular, without the Help of a Line; and though a poor Man be little concerned for the Charms of Beauty and Order, he ſhould be highly concerned to ſtudy that Method which enables him to make his Work at once more regular, more ſucceſsful, and more expeditious, all which the uſe of the Line does.

Every Row of Plants requires the Line to be ſet twice, once for laying the Plants all even at Top, and once for regularly digging the Ground to get Covering for the Roots, which with the keeping of the Earth even, and in a regular Slope for the next Row of Plants is all the Difficulty, and which with a little Care and Attention is ſoon overcome.

The Manner of doing it is this. Lay the firſt Row of Plants flat on the Surface, the Heads all one Way, and even at Top by the Line, and at the Diſtance of twenty Inches from each other. Then ſpread a narrow Layer of Dung all along, not only over the Roots, but if you can ſpare it, over the vacant Spaces between them, if not, lay about the Bulk of a Pint-Bottle of Dung on the Root of each Plant. When this is done, at the Diſtance

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of twenty-four Inches from the Necks of the Plants, as they lie ſet the Line even at both Ends, along which, about a Foot in Breadth, dig the Ground, and ſtill as you dig it, lay the Earth as a Cover on both the whole Roots, and on the Stems, quite up to the Necks of the Plants, filling up alſo as you come along the vacant Spaces, ſo as to form a pretty ſizable continued Ridge along the Middle of the Roots, with a regular Slope on either Side, a ſhort one from the Middle of the Ridge down to the Necks of the Plants, and a long one from the ſame Point, down to the Line where you are digging, and as flat as you can conſiſtently make it, ſo that the Dung which is to be laid along the Bottom of the Slope for the Roots of the next Row of Plants, may raiſe it as high, or higher, than the Surface of the Ground which is not yet planted.

Then on the Side of that Slope, lay down your ſecond Row of Plants in Order as before, and at twenty Inches Diſtance, meaſuring from the Necks of the Plants in the firſt, to the Necks of the Plants in the ſecond Row, their Roots being placed either in or upon the Dung, then ſet your Line for Cover as before, and ſo proceed with as many Rows as you think fit. If it be rightly done, the whole Surface of the planted Ground will lie in regular Furrows and Ridges; in which Furrows, prepared for catching and retaining every drop of Rain that falls, the Heads of the Plants appear, which in their Growth turn up, and in ſome Time are not to be diſtinguiſhed by the Eye, from Plants ſet upright in the common Way.

When you plant on the green Sod, chop the Sods as you cut them, and lay them on, all with the Graſs-Side down, in order to become Manure, and better prepare the Soil both for the preſent and the ſecond Crop, which I intend it for.

The thing is obviouſly ſo contrived, as to be done without hard Labour, or Toil of any Kind; there is not a ſingle Circumſtance in the whole, that may not as effectually be done by any ſmart Boy of thirteen or fourteen Years old, as by the ſtrongeſt Labourer, and done more expeditiouſly, as the Work is light, and the one nimbler than the other.

In my Experiments upon it, I picked out the pooreſt and ſhalloweſt Piece of Ground I had within any Incloſure, and made Choice of juſt ſuch a ſmall Planter as before is deſcribed, by whoſe Performance I muſt conclude, that ſuch a Boy being once made expert in the Method, (which he may at moſt in one Day's Practice) might, without Injury or Diſtreſs to himſelf, ſet out three or four hundred Plants, before an able Man could have his Ground prepared for planting one hundred, which, all Things conſidered, is no ſtrange Thing.

As to the Succeſs of this Method, I can, from the ſame Experiments, declare, that it has fully anſwered my Expectations, and vaſtly over-anſwered all my Expences. I had particularly a great Quantity of a large Kind of Cale planted in this Manner,

for a Winter's Proviſion, all which ſtood the Winter perfectly well, of which I have two or three hundred ſtill remaining; the firſt Crop of which, and the ſecond Crop of thoſe before cut, is ſuch a Store as I never had before at the Time of Year, though at double the Expence, and which I know I could not have, by any other Method, on the ſame poor and ſhallow Ground.

To be ready with an Anſwer to a very natural and proper Queſtion, that is, whether the Tips of the Roots do not, after all, turn down into the Gravel, which it was one of the chief Views of planting by this Method to prevent, I cautiouſly uncovered and examined ſeveral of my Roots, and found no Appearance of any ſuch thing.

There is one Thing, which, if I had recollected in Time, would have ſaved me abundance of Trouble in thinking, and which is at once a perfect Inſtance and ſure Proof of the Benefit of Flat-planting: I mean the Manner of planting Quick-ſets for Hedge-rows, as practiſed by all good Improvers, who lay them all flat in Surface-mold, along the Breaſt of the Ditch, as it is making; which Plants ſo ſet, vaſtly outdo, both in Size and Goodneſs, others of the ſame Parcel, ſet upright in the ſame or better Soil, and for the ſame Reaſon here aſſigned, for the flat-planting of Cabbage.

When the Cabbage is taken away, every Ridge wherein the Roots of it lay, is prepared for a Drill of Beans or Peas, which may be done by the ſlighteſt digging.

The Ground is alſo in the ſame State well fitted for a Crop of Turneps, which may be done without new digging. Let the poor Man make or borrow a ſtrong coarſe Rake, with long Teeth of Iron, or hard Wood, and having laid a proper Weight on the Head of it, let him work the Ground well backward and forward, acroſs the Ridges, which will ſufficiently ſtir and mix the Earth with what remains unſpent of the Dung, and lay it level and ready for the Seed, to which if a ſmall ſprinkling of Burn-baiting Aſhes (which is the moſt perfect Subſtance yet known for Turneps) be added, he will probably have ſuch a Crop, as no Man ever expected from ſuch Ground. Here it is evident, that the Work of two Seaſons is done in one, and in every Circumſtance, that of hard-raking excepted, may be the Performance of a Boy.

It may be ſome Encouragement to poor Men, living on ſuch Ground, to be told that Turneps ſowed in cold mountainy Ground, do not ſoon grow ſticky and uſeleſs, as they do in warm and rich Soil; but two Sowings in the Year, one in *March*, the other early in *July*, will tolerably well ſupply him moſt of the Year, and when either Crop runs out, it runs into a profitable Crop of Sprouts, to be uſed as Cale, and little inferior to the beſt Kinds of it, at leaſt for ſome Time: From ſome of which Sprouts I expect my poor Man to raiſe Seed for the next Seaſon.

As ſome poor Men may have no Dung, at leaſt none to ſpare from their more beloved Potatoes, I tried an Experiment upon two Kinds of Aſhes, the one Kitchen Aſhes from burned Turf, the other Burn-baiting Aſhes; both which anſwered very well inſtead of Dung, and the laſt the beſt of the two, which an induſtrious Man, who has no Dung, will not want, though he were obliged to make it of the Parings of the next high Road.

But as to Dung, no Man who lives within half a Mile of a Bog is to be pitied: The Stuff of which, taken from ſome Depth under the Surface, will do nothing that Year, but will the next. Let the poor Man carry to ſome Spot of Ground near the Bog, what Quantity of Fern, Weeds, and ſuch Trumpery he can get. Let him ſhake out an even Layer of it on the Ground, and upon that a Layer of Bog-ſtuff, and ſo proceed while his Stock of Weeds laſts, his Children, or a Horſe, all the Time with their Feet trampling, and mixing the whole Subſtance, which at laſt he is to pile up in a convenient Heap, to digeſt for the Uſes of the next Seaſon, and by ſo doing every Year, he will ever be in good Stock of Dung.

The next grand Requiſite after Dung, is Water, which is neceſſary to a good Garden every where, and moſt of all to the coarſe poor Ground that I am altogether concerned for. It is the Buſineſs then of my poor Man, to have, or contrive to bring Water into, or near his Garden, and eſpecially by little Dams here and there about his Houſe and Garden, to catch the true cordial Water of a Garden, which is Rain, and Land-Floods, into which Dams he is ever to be throwing in all corruptible Rubbiſh he can find, and particularly (which he can get in every Field near him) Horſe, Cow, and Sheep's Dung, in the Spring, which being then dried and parched up, is of no Uſe, but rather Detriment to the Land it lies on; but when melted in my poor Man's Dam, will produce ſoon ſuch a Fund of the beſt of Dung, as will moſt agreeably ſurprize him.

I conſider further, that many poor Men may want ready Money to buy Plants in due Time, and though they could perhaps ſpare ſo much, are yet under a further Tax of loſing the Price of a Day's Work, in going Abroad to buy them.

This is ſo often their hard Caſe, that it ſhould make them ſenſible of the great ſaving, and greater Convenience there is in having ſtill by them a ſmall Bed of Plants of their own ſowing twice a Year, from the Middle of *March* to the Middle of *April*, for Summer-plants; and from the Middle of *July* to the Beginning of *Auguſt*, for Winter-plants; the Coſt of both which Sowings, even if they bought the Seed, would not amount to ſo much as they loſe by one Day ſpent in going abroad to buy, beſides the ready Money that muſt go to buy the Plants.

Now to ſave that Expence and trouble, and to encourage my poor Man to ſet about that uſeful little Branch of Induſtry, I will put him in a Way both to furniſh himſelf with Seed, and from

from it, even on his poor Ground, to raiſe what Quantities of Plants he pleaſes.

If he has none in his own, let him get from ſome Neighbour's Garden in the Spring, half a dozen ſound thriving Cabbage-ſtalks, of a good Kind, and plant them in a good and ſnug Corner of his Garden, the Sprouts of which Stalks, without their Heads, will produce as good Seed as ſo many whole Cabbages; if there ſhould be any Difference, the Alteration is only from the Cabbage to the Cale Kind, which will be no Loſs to him. Let the Seed be preſerved from Birds, which, without his Care, will ſoon devour it; and lay it up cool and dry, and ſo he may from theſe few Stalks be in good Stock for ſeven Years.

To prepare his poor Ground for that, and all the ſmall Seeds he has to ſow, one Direction will ſerve. Let him with a Spade pick the Surface of the Earth as deep as the Soil goes, and no further, and ſtir the Mold very well, on which, laid ſmooth and level, let him ſpread a thin Layer of Dung, and on that a ſmall Sprinkling of fine Mold on which the Seed is to be ſown, and covered either by raking, or which is in many Reſpects the beſt way, by ſifting a little Mould on through a Riddle, or gently with a Shovel, caſting it all over the Seeds.

From the time of ſowing till the Plants are a Week at leaſt above Ground, the Birds muſt be carefully kept off.

That my poor Man may not, as better Gardeners often do, loſe moſt or all his young Plants, by a ſevere Winter, let him, before Winter comes on, with a Shovel, cautiouſly lay on fine Mold to the Thickneſs of an Inch or more, as the Tallneſs of his Plants will admit, which Mold will ſerve as ſo many Props to keep the Plants ſteady in their Places, preſerve them from Injuries at the Roots by the toſſing and battering of high Winds, and defend them from Froſts. Raw and new ſtirred Earth is a ſure Defence againſt Froſt, and yellow Clay the beſt of any, which is not for a conſiderable Time after ſtirring to be entered by the hardeſt Froſt, of which good Uſe might be made for the Preſervation of tender Plants in the Flower and Phyſick-Garden.

Thus, without laying a greater Streſs on Things than becomes them, as Scheme-wrights are apt to do, it is put in the Power of any poor Man, without Slavery or Coſt, to furniſh himſelf with Seed, with Plants from that Seed, and Plenty of Cabbage or Cale from thoſe Plants.

Now in long Days (which is his Time of planting) how eaſy is it for the pooreſt Day-labourer, who has both his Stock of Plants ready at Hand, and one of the moſt quick and eaſy Methods for planting that he could reaſonably wiſh for, to have a Garden always well ſtored? For by ſpending an Hour or two in the Morning before Work begins, or in the Evening after it is done, or Pieces of broken Days now and then, he is able to ſet out one hundred Plants, which is as much as he need ſet out

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in one Week, and which grown up to any tolerable Perfection, are of greater Benefit to a poor Family than a Buſhel of the beſt Wheat.

But further, beſides Cabbage, Cale, and Turneps, I fain would have in my poor Man's Garden, Parſnips, Carrots, Leeks, Peas and Beans: To raiſe which by poor Men on poor Grounds ſeems, I own, to be an extravagant Flight. Parſnips and Carrots by the Length of their Roots ſeem indeed totally cut off from Propagation on ſuch Kinds of Ground; but it will be found, that what Nature has denied them in one Way it affords them another Way: I mean that theſe and other long-rooted Plants, which if left to ſtand, and ſhoot through a thin Surface, though ever ſo good, into pernicious Gravel below it, muſt ſoon after entering that Enemy's Country ſtarve or periſh, will live and proſper when only differently placed in the ſame Soil, that is, ſo as to enjoy what is good, and to avoid what is hurtful in it, which is the general Deſign and Benefit of Flat-planting, which will have the ſame good Effect in the Tranſplantation of Parſnips and Carrots as it has on that of Cabbage-Plants; the Beds for the Seeds I gave Directions for before, in which the Plants are to be raiſed as in a Nurſery, to be at proper Growth flat-planted in the ſame or other Beds of tilled or even Lay-ground at five or ſix Inches diſtance from each other, which ſeems to be a tedious if not a trifling Buſineſs, but none will think it ſo, who ſees four or five Hundred of them ſet out by a Boy in an Hour, which Number grown to any tolerable Size will go a great Way in a Family.

The Seeds of both Parſnips and Carrots I expect to be raiſed by the poor Man himſelf, and in the ſame Manner as before directed for Cabbage-Seed, that is, from a few Roots of both Kinds, which no Neighbour will refuſe him, but rather help and commend him.

Leeks are to be ſowed, and flat-planted out in the ſame Manner.

As to Beans, a moſt ſucceſsful as well as expeditious Way to raiſe them, is to ſet them on a thin Layer of Dung, ſpread on the Ground without digging, each at four or five Inches Diſtance from the other, and then digging a ſmall Trench along each Side of the Bed, throw on a Cover of about four Inches, and more if the Earth be light, obſerving that when you thus ſet Beans on the green Sod, you are to lay on the Sods with the Graſs-ſide down, chopping them well and at laſt covering them ſmooth over with loole Mold, and ſo the Thing is done.

By this Method a ſmart Boy is able to ſet as much Beans in one Day, as the beſt Hand in a Gentleman's Garden, who has his Ground to dung, dig, pick, drill, ſow and cover, can do in a Week, and who after all that expenſive

ſive Nicety (ſuppoſing both Pieces of Ground of equal State) is not able to ſhew a better Crop, and who without laying on more Soil as well as Dung, could not by his Method on poor ſhallow Ground ſhew ſcarcely any Crop at all.

Peas are to be ordered the ſame Way, but not laid on the naked Dung as the Beans, may, but firſt covered with a Sprinkling of looſe Mold. In ſhort, to the Poor of *Ireland* the cleareſt Inſtruction I could give them, is to apprize them in the firſt Place, that Beans and Peas are to be ſet in the ſame Manner as Potatoes are ſet, and in the next Place, that the ſame Ground that brings one will bring the other; ſo that with a poor Man in any Part of *Ireland*, the Queſtion is not whether his Ground will produce Beans and Peas, but whether it will produce Potatoes? Which Queſtion the moſt ignorant among them is able readily to anſwer. To which I have nothing to add, but that the poor Man in uſing theſe and other Crops, ſhould ſtill think of reſerving ſome for Seed againſt the next Seaſon.

Garlick is a Root to be found in few Gardens of the Poor, but ought to be in every one of them. One or other of the Garlick-kinds is greatly uſed and commended by the Poor in hot Countries, and for a better Reaſon the Poor, in cold Countries, ſhould uſe and find Benefit by it. The *French* Poor ſay they could not live in Health and Comfort without their Garlick, the *Spaniſh* Poor without their Onions, and the *Welch* Poor without their Leeks: the Reaſon is very plain, the Stomachs of People feeding much on a vegetable Diet are conſtantly leſs or more phlegmatick and languid, and want ſomething of a pungent and quickening Nature, to keep up due Vigour in Digeſtion, and where a requiſite Uſe of ſpirituous Liquors is by Neceſſity denied, nothing is able better to ſupply that Defect than Garlick, which has excellent Effects on the Actions both of the Stomach and Lungs of People in that Courſe of Diet.

Garlick was formerly ſo much in Uſe, that the old *Iriſh* did not think even their Butter rightly prepared if it was not well impregnated with the Flavour of Garlick; but upon the coming in of the *Engliſh* among them, who, to be ſure, more by Accident, than for any other Reaſon, ever liked it leſs than any other Nation, it fell by Degrees into almoſt univerſal Diſuſe: but for the Reaſon before given, and from the Example of Nations, as wiſe and polite as our own, it muſt be concluded, that the Uſe of it ſhould be reſtored among the Poor, provided ſtill, that it comes not near any more of their Butter, than they themſelves make Uſe of.

Any poor Man may try this Experiment: let him take a ſmall Quantity of any of the Garlick-kinds, ſhred it ſmall, and mix it with his hot Meſs of Cabbage, and then judge whether with that cheap Sauce his Meal does not better go down,

down, and agree with his Stomach, than it does without it? If it does, why ſhould he ever be without it?

For the ſame Reaſon I would have always in my poor Man's Garden, Chives, Muſtard, Horſe-radiſh, and Tongue-graſs, and the common Pot-herbs, every one of which he may have by the Directions before given.

Laſtly, it is ſtrange, if out of the Money he muſt ſave by ſuch Improvements in his Garden, he cannot ſpare a little to buy a Quantity of Pepper, which is not only the cheapeſt, but to him the beſt of Spices, a ſmall Quantity of which will not only render his Meals more grateful, but more wholſome.

Now ſo great a Number of Things and Directions as are here laid down ſeems ſufficient to ſwallow up a Man's whole Time, but being attentively conſidered, the Thing is much otherwiſe, there being not a ſingle Circumſtance here propoſed, that any Day-labourer of Thought and Induſtry may not do at ſpare Hours. I am certain that there is not a Labourer in the Kingdom who works ſo hard for his Employer as not to be able to do more and harder Things than I expect from him in any one Day, which beſides being the certain Means of providing for his Family, muſt, if he has any Fancy in him, be a pleaſant Diverſion to him; an Employment which will not only be attended with the ſpecial Favour and Bleſſing of God, but the Praiſe of Men good and bad, and even of the ſlothful, who do nothing of the Kind themſelves.

All that I require of my poor Man is honeſtly to work for his Employer abroad as a Man, and for a few Hours in the Week to work for himſelf at home as a Boy, and then I will engage that without loſing one Day in the Year, he may make an ample and comfortable Proviſion for his Family, which with any Thing like the ſame Thrift in his Wife within Doors, muſt ſoon make a great Change in the pooreſt Man's Condition.

If he has a Son grown up to 13 or 14 Years of Age, that Boy under the Care of a prudent and handy Father may do all himſelf; which however may be as hard a Condition as I could lay either Father or Son under.

The loweſt of the *Iriſh* Poor are remarkable for having no Notion of either correcting for Faults, or ſetting their Children to Work before the Age of 15 or 16 Years, in which great Part of Man's Life, few of them earn to the Value of the Salt they eat with their Victuals. From this hopeful Beginning it follows, that ſuch Children are ever after headſtrong, untractable, and upon any Provocation prone to dangerous and wicked Attempts, and, as it often happens, and moſt juſtly, againſt their own Parents as well as Strangers. Hence it is, that ſo many of them, if they could but earn as much in one Day as could keep them barely from ſtarving for a Month, would not with their good Will work

a ſecond

a ſecond Day all that Time. How then is it poſſible for ſuch a Set of People not to be the fruitful Seminary of Beggars and Thieves? This is far from being intended as a Reflection on either the poor or the rich Natives of *Ireland* in general: I mean no more than that degenerate Part of them, whom every wiſe Man and good Improver among themſelves blame as much as I do, and for the ſame Reaſon.

To return to my poor Man, who I hope is not ſuch an Enemy to himſelf, to his Offſpring, to his Neighbours, and even to God himſelf, as to train up his Children in ſuch a Courſe, for which he is accountable to God the Father and Judge of all Men, I ſhall now lay before him ſome further material Advantages of having a plentiful Garden, though it ſhould conſiſt only of Cabbage or Cale.

By giving a Feeding to his Cow Night and Morning of ſpare Leaves, or even whole Heads of Cabbage or Cale, which in ſuch a Plantation as he may have is to be afforded, he will ſoon bring that one Cow to be as profitable as two on the ſame Paſture without ſuch Helps.

After his Calf has been ſome little Time fed upon Milk, half the uſual Quantity with ſtrong Cabbage-broth will rear it: The Calf will by degrees drink it without any Milk, and greedily eat the boiled Leaves at the Bottom, and thrive well upon it; ſo that between the Increaſe of Milk in his Cow, and the Saving out of the Quantity for his Calf, the Family may be ſupplied, and the Calf reared, which without Meal for Porrage to feed the Calf, and which Meal I am ſuppoſing a poor Man not to have, would be impoſſible.

The ſame Profit by the ſame Means he will have from his Goats, which in coarſe poor Grounds, where I ſuppoſe moſt of the loweſt Poor to reſide, are not only a cheap but a very profitable Kind of Cattle. It is generally computed that three good Milch Goats will give as much Milk as a good middling Cow, and by the additional Help of Cabbage Leaves will greatly exceed it.

Cabbage boiled, chopped, and mixed with Milk, and ſtill better with a little Oatmeal or Bran, will feed young Ducks, and moſt Kinds of Poultry, the rearing of which is a profitable Branch of Buſineſs, which a poor Man's Wife having a plentiful Garden of Cabbage and other Roots to go to, may largely deal in.

By the Condition in which Flat-planting of Cabbage leaves the Ground, it ſeems to be the beſt Dreſſing imaginable for moſſy and Hide-bound Meadows, which are to be tilled only for freeing and laying them preſently down again for Graſs. It requires no new Digging or Ploughing, or ſtirring, but juſt what a good Harrowing may give it. None of the deep Gravel or other pernicious Soil is turned up, as it happens in Ploughing, nor is there any thing in the Surface, that was not Surface before it was touched: The Soil is not impoveriſhed, for what it has loſt by

by the Crop, it gains, and above, by what remains unſpent of the Dung, and the old Sod now rotten and turned to Manure and good Mold, which being mixed and ſpread even with the Harrow, is perfectly fitted for Graſs-ſeeds.

Now ſuppoſe a Gentleman, whoſe true Charity lies not in feeding the Idle, but in employing and punctually paying the induſtrious Poor, had ſuch a Thing to do, he may proceed thus. He mows his Meadow in the latter End of *June* or Beginning of *July*, and ſo far loſes nothing that Seaſon. Having then his Stock of Plants ready beforehand, raiſed from Seed of his own Growth, which he may have at a trifling Expence, he may as ſoon as the firſt Plat of Hay is raked off ſet on his Planters, moſt or all of whom under a good Overſeer may be Boys and young Lads at ſmall Wages. By the latter End of *March* following the Ground is cleared and ready for the Harrow, which being proportionably weighty for the Soil, and drawn acroſs the Ridges, will preſently level and mix the Mold ready for the Seed, which before *Lammas* following will produce a Crop leſs perhaps in Quantity, but in Quality of more Value than two of the former Crops, and ſo mend upon it the next, and continue a good Meadow for many Years after.

Thus might a Meadow all at a Time, or Piece by Piece, be run over without Loſs of either Time or Crop; on the contrary, one Crop more than ordinary is obtained, which in the dead Time of the Year is green and flouriſhing when other Herbage is ſcarce, and what is of it is weak and inſipid, and which for the Support and Profit of Milch Cows and ſuckling Ewes early in the Spring, when every green Leaf they ſhould get their Food from, may for Weeks together be kept from them under a deep Cover of Snow, is likely to be one of the moſt profitable Crops that ever ſuch Ground produced.

As to the Expence of it, if every thing be conſidered and a Balance ſtruck, I cannot ſuppoſe it to be great; but that the Improver will be the beſt Judge of, who ſtands by and ſees one hundred of Plants ſo ſet, from which he may compute to a Farthing what the planting of one Acre will ſtand him in.

The Uſe and Benefit of Flat-planting may extend to ſome Things in a Gentleman's as well as my poor Man's Garden. I will give one Inſtance in the ſetting of Fruit-Trees by the Wall. We ſee that to give it Room to ſpread all round, the Root of a Tree is ſet down at a Diſtance from, and with its Head leaning and faſtened to the Wall. In the firſt place that is an unſightly Poſture for a Tree to ſtand in, and which nothing but Neceſſity at firſt, and Cuſtom afterward, could reconcile to the Eye. In the next place, the Tap Root of a Tree ſo planted is ſtill in the way of ſtriking deep into the Gravel and bad Soil below.

Now Flat-planting in both reſpects at once ſets all right. In the firſt place, the Stocks for Grafting being at their firſt Tranſplantation from their Seed-bed flat-planted, their Tops turn up, and the Stems grow upright, ſo that the Root and Stem taken together

together reſemble an (L), the Bottom of which ſuppoſe to be the Root, the upright Part the Stem of the Tree. When therefore the Stock is grown up and grafted, and ready for planting out, all that the Gardener has to do is to make a ſmall Trench, and lay down the Root along in it, with the Back of the Stem cloſe and ſtrait by the Wall, and the Root pointing directly out from the Wall. By this Means the Head of the Tree is preſently made conformable to the Wall, and without ſo much bending, bruiſing and mangling, as can hardly be avoided in the common manner, and the Root is placed ſo as never to be within Reach of bad Under-ſoil of any Kind. It is true I never tried this, but I am as ſure of its ſucceeding, as of any thing in the Kind that I have tried and ſeen the Benefit of. I know not what my Brother Gardener in my Lord's or the 'Squire's Garden (who ſeldom is influenced by any Philoſophy but his own) will pleaſe to think of it; but from the Succeſs I have had in other Things full as unlikely as this is, I muſt ſay, that had I the choiceſt Tree in the Creation to plant by a Wall, for the Beauty, Health, Fruitfulneſs, and long Life of my Tree, I would plant it in that, and no other manner now uſed.

Now to draw to an End, which I fancy the Reader will think it high Time to do, if my poor Man ſhould be of the ſame Diſpoſition with Numbers of his Sort, who are content with a Dog's Life ſpent in Hunger and Eaſe, or when ſore pinched think of no Relief, but what by Virtue of ragged Cadows thrown about them they can pick up from Houſe to Houſe, or as a ſhorter Cut to Plenty turn Thieves or Robbers in ſpite of the Gallows, to which odious Vermin and Diſgrace of human Nature it is not enough to ſay, that *he who will not work, neither ſhall he eat*, but as being literally the Defrauders of the Rich and Robbers of the real Poor, neither ſhould they live.—If my poor Man ſhould unfortunately in either Reſpect be of this Caſt, then all that I have ſaid, or could further ſay, is to no purpoſe.

But if he be (which is every thing I require and wiſh for in him) a Friend to himſelf and his Family, what I have ſaid will be ſufficient to put him in a way of making a good and ſpeedy Proviſion for both, at leaſt better than any of his Sort, who having no Corn, nor any thing to depend on, but their beggarly and Beggar-making Potatoes (which for a proper Relief are not much earlier than Corn) muſt ſuffer extremely, if not periſh, before either come in.

I would have him in the laſt place to take this as a Maxim from a ſincere Friend, and whenever he thinks much of doing this or that neceſſary thing in his Garden, to call it to mind, that a good Garden is to a poor Man a good Granary, a Store that will not only be a comfortable Relief to him in a ſcarce, but a great Benefit and Convenience in the moſt plentiful Year that can come: To which I have nothing to add but beſt Wiſhes, that many more Schemes may be formed for his Relief, and every one more practicable and beneficial than this; and ſo for this Time I heartily bid him

FINIS.

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